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City of Franklin submits infrastructure grant ideas

'Wish list' identifies improvement areas for grant money

FRANKLIN—Officials in Franklin today submitted general proposals to the state government for infrastructure funding in the city. The submission is part of a survey being done by the Office of Community and Rural Affairs that will assess infrastructure funding needs throughout the state.

Areas for funding identified in the Franklin report include gateway improvements, roads and sidewalk repair, purchase of foreclosed downtown retail space, the relocation of the Franklin Senior Center and necessary enhancement to the city's drainage system.

"We are trying to find ways to make the community better without tapping into our savings or our citizen's pocketbooks," said Mayor Fred L. Paris.

Other projects include funding for city office space, fire stations and improvements to the parks and trails system.

The survey through OCRA is part of a second round of disaster allocation funds for capital infrastructure projects. The \$95 million allocation is open for the 82 Indiana counties involved in the weather disasters of 2008, and allows for projects that are necessary to the economic recovery of the affected county.

The available funds, which are not limited to damage repair, would fund much-needed projects, and will hopefully put people to work, Mayor Paris said.

"With all of this grant money being made available for local communities, now is actually the perfect time to begin long-term improvement projects," he said.

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